

Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:

Please *amend claims 19 and 28*, without prejudice, as shown below in the following listing of all claims ever presented. The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims.

1-18. (Canceled)

19. **(Currently Amended)** A composite article comprising:

(a) a substrate comprising a metal-graphite composite material having a carbon fiber content, wherein the substrate has at least one surface having a reduced carbon fiber content which is 10 wt. % or less of the carbon fiber content of the material;

(b) a metal-containing intermediate layer located on a surface of the substrate;

and

(c) a metal coating on the intermediate layer.

20. (Previously Presented) The composite article of claim 19, wherein the at least one surface of the composite material is hermetically sealed.

21. (Previously Presented) The composite article of claim 19, wherein the at least one surface of the composite material is corrosion resistant.

22. (Previously Presented) The composite article of claim 19, wherein the at least one surface of the composite material is both hermetically sealed and corrosion resistant.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The composite article of claim 19, wherein the composite

material is selected from the group consisting of aluminum graphite composite materials, aluminum alloy graphite composite materials, and combinations of the foregoing.

25. (Previously Presented) The composite article of claim 19, wherein the composite material has a carbon fiber content ranging from about 15 wt.% to about 60 wt.%.

26. (Previously Presented) The composite article of claim 19, wherein the metal-containing intermediate layer comprises a zinc-containing material.

27. (Previously Presented) The composite article of claim 19, wherein the metal-containing intermediate layer comprises a zincate.

28. **(Currently amended)** A metal-coated metal graphite composite material comprising:

(a) a substrate comprising a metal-graphite composite material having a carbon fiber content, wherein the substrate has at least one surface having a reduced carbon fiber content which is 10 wt. % or less of the carbon fiber content of the material;

(b) a metal-containing intermediate layer located on a surface of the substrate;
and

(c) a metal coating on the intermediate layer,

wherein the composite material is made by a method comprising:

(1) removing graphite from at least one surface of a metal graphite composite material by oxidizing the metal graphite composite material at a temperature of at least 250°C, or by use of vibratory finishing techniques, plasma stripping techniques, glow discharge techniques, mechanical blasting techniques, lapping techniques, or combinations of any of these to form the at least one surface having a reduced carbon fiber content;

(2) chemically cleaning or plasma etching the at least one surface of the metal graphite composite material;

- (3) applying a metal-containing material to the surface of the chemically cleaned or plasma etched metal graphite composite material, and thereby forming an intermediate layer; and
- (4) applying a metal coating on the intermediate layer, and thereby forming the metal-coated metal graphite composite material.

29. (Previously Presented) The composite material of claim 28, wherein the metal-coated metal graphite composite material formed in step (4) has a surface that is hermetically sealed or corrosion-resistant or both hermetically sealed and corrosion resistant.

30. (Previously presented) The composite material of claim 28, wherein graphite is removed from at least one surface of the metal graphite composite material by plasma stripping techniques.